

## ABSTRACT

A drive circuit for driving a switching element is provided which includes a high-side switching circuit connected between 5 power supply lines, a low-side switching circuit connected in series with the high-side switching circuit through an output terminal leading to the switching element, and a voltage detector detecting a voltage appearing at the output terminal. When the voltage detected by the voltage detector is lower than a given off-decision 10 voltage, that is, when the switching element is placed in the off-state, the low-side switching circuit is brought into the off-state, thereby reducing the current consumption thereof.

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